

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES STUDY COMMITTEE



Indiana Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

November, 2012

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2012

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NATURAL RESOURCES STUDY COMMITTEE

Membership Roster

Senators

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Bremen

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Richard Young
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Representatives

Sean Eberhart
Shelbyville

Michael Karickhoff
Kokomo

Kreg Battles
Vincennes

David Niezgodski
South Bend

Staff

Steve Wenning
Attorney for the Committee

Kathy Norris
Fiscal Analyst for the Committee

A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE

The Indiana General Assembly enacted legislation directing the Committee to do the following:

- Conduct a continuing study of the laws relating to the Department of Natural Resources to the end that legislation may be proposed to better serve the citizens of Indiana. The Committee is to consult with representatives of the Department of Natural Resources and citizens of Indiana for the purpose of proposing legislation to accomplish the following:
 - (a) repeal of outmoded or unnecessary laws;
 - (b) consolidation and restatement of existing laws;
 - (c) improved coordination of state laws with federal laws; and
 - (d) addition or amendment of laws that will further the purpose for which the Department of Natural Resources was created.(IC 2-5-5-3)
- Advise and assist the Department of Natural Resources in programming its activities and in developing a long-range plan for land acquisition, capital improvement, and development of facilities. (IC 2-5-5-3)
- Oversee the Water Resource Management Program under IC 14-25-7. (IC 14-25-7-16)

II. INTRODUCTION AND REASONS FOR STUDY

The Natural Resources Study Committee met to carry out its statutory responsibilities under IC 2-5-5-3 and IC 14-25-7-16.

III. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM

The Committee met two times during the 2012 interim. Meetings were held as follows:

1. August 28 and 29, 2012, at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.
2. September 10 and 11, 2012, at Indiana Dunes State Park, Chesterton, Indiana.

IV. SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE TOPICS

The Committee heard testimony from natural resources professionals, members of the General Assembly, university researchers, representatives of foundations, and other interested parties. The Committee received information and examined the following topics:

- Invasive Species Issues

- Purdue Programs Concerning Water Quality and Aquaculture
- Water Resource Management Program Report
- Effect of Drought on Public Lands/Water Resources, and Agriculture
- Historical Uses of State Water Resources
- Effect of Users Competition for Water Resources on Natural Resources, Municipalities' Growth, and Agricultural Uses
- Update on Natural Resources Matters
- Forestry Issues and Research
- Wildlife Issues and Research
- Indiana Dunes State Park Update
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Update
- Falls of the Ohio Issues
- Miscellaneous Hunting and Fishing Issues
- Conservancy District Alliance Review
- Sustainable Task Force Update
- Lake Michigan Coastal Program Update
- Lake Management Task Force Final Report

To read a more complete account of the testimony and other matters considered by the Committee, the minutes of the Committee's meetings can be found on the General Assembly's website at: <http://www.in.gov/legislative>

WITNESS LIST

Mark Basch	Water Rights Section, Department of Natural Resources
Brandt Baughman	Indiana Dunes State Park, Department of Natural Resources
Brandon Brummett	Louisville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon	State House District 12
Dan Cassens	Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University
Dani Cummins	Falls of the Ohio Foundation, Inc.
John Davis	Department of Natural Resources
Tom DeGiulio	Town of Munster
Rep. Nancy Dembowski	State House District 17
Rep. Dick Dodge	State House District 51
Barney Dunning	Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University
Sen. Ron Grooms	State Senate District 46
Tomas Hook	Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University, and Purdue University Water Community
Chris Hurt	Purdue Extension Service
Alan Hux	Taft, Stettinius and Hollister
Ellen Jacquart	Northern Indiana Stewardship, Indiana Chapter, The Nature Conservancy
Phil Marshal	Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Department of Natural Resources and Indiana Invasive Species Council
Mike Molnar	Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program, Department of Natural Resources
Mark Palmer	Taft, Stettinius and Hollister
Mike R. Saunders	Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University
Chris Smith	Department of Natural Resources
Linda Stalker Prokopy	Useful to Usable and Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University
Rob Swihart	Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University
Ron Turco	Indiana Water Resources Research Center and the Purdue University Water Community
Bill Weeks	Indiana Sustainable Natural Resources Task Force
Jack Wittman	Layne Hydro Division, Layne Christensen Company
Steve Yaninek	Department of Entomology, Purdue University and Indiana Invasive Species Council